

REMARKS

This amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated March 28, 2001, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4 and 7-12 remain pending in the application. Claims 2 and 10 have been deemed allowable over the art of record. Claims 2 and 10, though allowable, have been objected to for depending on rejected base claims. Claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 11-12 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Culbert in view of Shyr. Applicant submits the following arguments in traversal of the prior art rejections.

Applicant's invention relates to a power management method for a portable device which can be connected to an external communication terminal. Details of the background and preferred embodiment of the invention are set forth in the January 18, 2000 Amendment at pages 4-5. Culbert is described in the June 30, 2000 Amendment at pages 1-2 and Shyr is described in the January 5, 2001 Amendment at page 3-4. Applicant refers the Examiner to these documents for these descriptions. Further to these descriptions, Applicant emphasizes that the present invention relates to power management when a portable device is connected with an external device. Power will be supplied to the external device on the condition that a certain battery condition is met.

The Examiner continues to maintain that the combination of Culbert and Shyr teach or suggest each feature of Applicant's independent claims 1 and 7. However, the Examiner's rejection is not supported for at least four reasons.

First, contrary to the Examiner's contention, Culbert does not include the feature of supplying electric power to said external communication terminal if said battery voltage is larger than said reference voltage. In Culbert, any peripheral equipment becomes powered unconditionally during a "wake up" mode of the device. See Fig. 6, step 614 and col. 5, lines 10-25. The performance of certain tasks in the Culbert device is premised based on priority rather than on a power condition. This priority determination is provided in detail at col. 4, line 22 to col. 5, 57. The Examiner relies on col. 4, line 1 to col. 5, line 65 of Culbert as teaching the powering of the external device on the condition of a voltage determination. The Examiner's reliance on these sections of Culbert is completely misplaced. As discussed above, the majority of col. 4 describes a priority scheme. Col. 4, line 53 to col. 5, line 2 describes a sleep mode whereby external devices have no power, which is completely opposite of the claim recitation. See col. 4, lines 59-61. Col. 5, lines 10-25 describe a wake up mode, whereby external devices are provided power with power without regard to a voltage condition. Col. 6, lines 25-65 also describe determinations of operation based on priority rather than voltage conditions. The only discussion of voltage conditions at col. 4, lines 1-21 pertains to determinations of the attachment or detachment of a PCMCIA card to a I/O port. Thus, this cited portion bears no relationship to battery conditions of an external communication circuit.

Second, while the Examiner cites Shyr to make up for acknowledged deficiencies of Culbert with regard to the comparing steps, Shyr does not make up for the deficiency discussed above. In particular, Shyr pertains to power management of a self-contained device. There is no

teaching of monitoring of voltage features for an external terminal. In this regard, Shyr does not make up for the fundamental deficiency of Culbert discussed above.

Third, the Examiner maintains that it would be obvious to incorporate Shyr's features into Culbert to prevent excessive overload during power management of the device. See Office Action, page 3, lines 4-7. The Examiner's suggested change is to substitute the voltage detection of Shyr for the priority determinations of Culbert. However, since priority determinations are a central feature of the primary reference, the suggested substitution would contradict a principle operation of the reference. Such modifications do not support obviousness rejections. Assuming *arguendo* that the suggested change is appropriate, this would not obviate the defects of Culbert vis a vis the provision of power based on a power condition. Applicant submits that the battery back-up system in Shyr would permit Culbert to provide power unconditionally to an external terminal, and thus operation is not conditioned on a voltage determination. By contrast, claim 1 provides power based on a certain condition.

Fourth, Applicant submits that the above defects in the rejection indicate that the Examiner is using impermissible hindsight in making the prior art rejection. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 7 are patentable for at least this reason. Claims 4 and 8-9 and 11-12 are patentable based on their dependency.

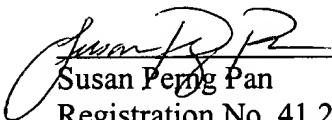
In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-12 are in condition for allowance. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the subject application be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/124,052

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

Claim 2 (Amended). [The] A power management method [as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of] for a personal digital assistant which can be connected with an external communication terminal, comprising the steps of:

upon detecting power-on of said external communication terminal, detecting a battery voltage of said personal digital assistant;

comparing said battery voltage with a reference voltage, said reference voltage being slightly higher than an inoperable voltage of said personal digital assistant;

generating a low-voltage alarm message when said battery voltage is lower than said reference voltage;

supplying electric power to said external communication terminal if said battery voltage is higher than said reference voltage,

comparing said battery voltage with an inoperable voltage threshold of said personal digital assistant; and

setting the personal digital assistant to a sleep mode when said battery voltage is lower than said inoperable voltage threshold of said personal digital assistant.